

NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

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For Immediate Release

JUNE 16, 2005

Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on June 15, 2005, **PIERRE M. COCHRAN**, age 42, of Belleville, Illinois, pled guilty in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Illinois, East St. Louis, Illinois, to counts one and two of a February 25, 2005 indictment which charged aiding and abetting attempted wire fraud, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2, 1343, 1346, and 1349.

COCHRAN was a Police Officer with the East St. Louis, Illinois, Police Department, and was assigned to the Patrol Division. **COCHRAN**, while serving as a police officer, schemed with and aided and abetted a prostitute in demanding and accepting cash payments in exchange for releasing individuals who had been detained and arrested for solicitation of prostitution.

The maximum penalty that can be imposed for each violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2, 1343, 1346, and 1349 is twenty (20) years' imprisonment or a \$250,000 fine, or both, and at least three (3) years' supervised release. Sentencing is scheduled for October 20, 2005.

The successful prosecution was a result of an investigation conducted by the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division; the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the United States Postal Inspection Service, Criminal Investigations, and the Illinois State Police. The case is being handled by Hal Goldsmith, Assistant United States Attorney.